



NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NEWMAN PORTAL COLLECTIONS SUMMARY

Auction Catalogs	10,041
Periodicals	26,775
Videos	3,199
Images	108,657
Books	1,177
Archival Documents	6,152
Total Pages	3,173,776
Contributors	153

“The world is changing and we can either change with it or perish. Nothing demonstrates this more than the Newman Numismatic Portal. This site is a game-changer for numismatic research. If you have not looked at the Portal, please do so – you will see the future....”

Chris McDowell

Editor of Journal of Early American Numismatics

“More researchers should be using the records on the Newman Portal.”

R. W. Julian

Numismatic author

The Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP, available at <http://NewmanPortal.org>), administered by Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), is chartered with the mission of making the documents and images of numismatics, especially American numismatics, universally available on a free and forever basis. The Newman Portal site was publicly launched in 2016 and continues to aggressively build its online collections of numismatic books, periodicals, auction sale catalogs, images, and archival materials.

Like everyone else, our major challenge in 2020 has been the COVID epidemic. While much of our activity is virtual and geographically remote, COVID has in particular impacted Newman Portal scanning operations. Newman Portal has previously maintained scanning centers at WUSTL, the American Numismatic Society (ANS) in New York, and at multiple locations of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). All of these operations have been variously impacted.

WUSTL has managed the epidemic well, with a 7-day positivity rate of 0.16% as of this writing. Safety remains the highest priority of the university, and, for this reason, Newman Portal has operated without student scanning since March. We’ve been able to outsource some of this work to the Internet Archive satellite scanning center at Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN. NARA locations remain closed throughout the country, so we’ve reallocated resources toward the transcription of previously scanned NARA materials, with over 2,000 pieces of correspondence transcribed to date. The situation at ANS is better, with Newman Portal resuming fulltime scanning as of July. NNP acknowledges ANS Executive Director Gilles Bransbourg and Librarian David Hill for their assistance in restarting scanning at ANS.

While scanning activity has been reduced in 2020, the NNP user community has continued to propel site growth, with content contributions often coming in electronic form. Newman Portal today counts a growing number of individuals, groups, and dealers who have contributed content ranging from club publications to auction sale catalogs to self-published works. We’ve processed material from over 150 such contributors, and it is this outpouring of community support that will sustain Newman Portal as we together build a lasting resource for numismatic research.



An entire set of Numismatic News, 1952-date, one of two pallets.

CURRENT SCANNING PROJECTS

NUMISMATIC NEWS

With the assistance of Cliff Mishler and George Cuhaj, Newman Portal is scanning the reference set of *Numismatic News* held by the Iola Historical Society in Iola, WI. The *Numismatic News*, launched in 1952, provided weekly coverage of the numismatic field for many years, with current issues published three times monthly. While we do not currently have permission to present this publication with full view, NNP will provide “snippets” in response to search requests, and we are able to share articles with individual users on a fair use basis. Digital preservation is a key part of the NNP mission, and we are thankful to Cliff and George for enabling the scanning of this important record of American numismatics. To date we have scanned 1,177 issues of Numismatic News.

EARLY PAPER MONEY OF AMERICA

Eric P. Newman published five editions of *Early Paper Money of America* between 1967 and 2008, and this work lives on today through the NNP Edition of this work (<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollection/513468>). This online edition was seeded from the fifth edition and additionally includes images of hundreds of examples from the Newman collection, which was sold by Heritage Auctions in a series of sales from 2013 to 2018. We actively maintain these pages and have incorporated edits from David Gladfelter, Ray Williams, Stu and Maureen Levine, and others.

ERIC P. NEWMAN PAPERS

Newman maintained research files on a host of numismatic subjects, and these are being systematically scanned. The December 2019 *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, published by ANS, included an article by Len Augsburg, Newman Portal Project Coordinator, on this topic. While scanning of this material has slowed in 2020, the organization and cataloging work has continued at a normal pace, and we expect this work to conclude in 2021.

NNP FEATURED COLLECTION

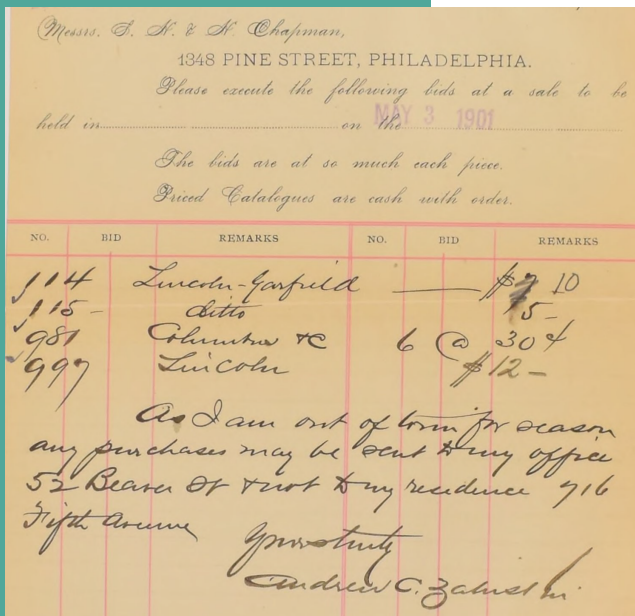
Steve Crain (1949-2019) was a lifelong collector of U.S. half dimes and built the most comprehensive set of die varieties ever formed. While Crain’s intention to write the standard reference to the series never came to fruition, NNP was able to sponsor the photography of his collection prior to sale. Many of these coins would have otherwise slipped into the collector community without substantial documentation. With the assistance of W. David Perkins, Steve Herrman, and the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, these images, along with Crain’s notes on each coin, are permanently available for study at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollection/514182>.



1851 H10c, V-1, ex. Steve Crain

“We have enjoyed the Portal’s treasures very much and continue our perusal of same. Our hats are off to you for your excellent efforts and product.”

Richard Kelly
and Nancy Oliver
Numismatist columnists



Bids transmitted by Andrew C. Zabriskie (ANS President, 1896-1904) for the Chapman sale held May 3, 1901

"Once again, please permit me to thank and congratulate you for the marvelous work you are doing with the Newman Numismatic Portal."

Robert Hoge
Curator Emeritus, American Numismatic Society

SAMUEL H. & HENRY CHAPMAN CORRESPONDENCE

The American Numismatic Society holds an extensive collection of the correspondence of these two Philadelphia dealers, who conducted an important series of auction sales from 1879 to 1932. This group represents over 2,500 correspondents and is a unique record of the day-to-day activities of this noteworthy American firm. Processing of this archive was interrupted by COVID, but the primary correspondent file has been recently completed, with only supplementary material now remaining. We maintain a long list of other scanning targets at American Numismatic Society and will be next scanning publications of the International Numismatic Congress.

NNP SYMPOSIUM

In response to the COVID epidemic, the first NNP Symposium was held August 28-30, and drew over a thousand registrants. This three-day, online event presented 40 speakers on a variety of topics covering nearly all aspects of numismatics from ancient to modern. Audience reception was enthusiastic, attendee comments included "the closest I've come to having a coin convention experience since before the coronavirus hit," and "Drive time was very short, parking was free, food options were plentiful and reasonably priced, and overnight accommodations were like sleeping in my own bed." Newman Portal is pleased to announce the second Symposium, which will take place March 19-21, 2021. Lianna Spurrier of Numismatic Marketing will again produce this event on behalf of Newman Portal. All videos from the first NNP Symposium are available at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/multimediatetail/539070>.



NNP USERS MAKE CONNECTIONS

D.S. is an architectural historian and was working on the George Lucas residence in Los Angeles. Using NNP resources, this researcher determined that this home was once owned by Howard Newcomb, an American numismatist (1877-1945) known for his die variety studies of U.S. large cents.

K.C. used NNP to locate the sale of a UK military service medal conferred on one of her ancestors. Newman Portal connected this user with the auction house that had previously sold the medal.

A criminal investigator from the southern U.S. inquired with Newman Portal regarding the unsolved murder of a coin dealer in the 1980s. Newman Portal was able to supply related articles published at the time in Coin World.

NEWMAN PORTAL IN 2021 AND BEYOND

DOCUMENTING SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS

Collections need not be valuable in monetary terms in order to convey significant history. Bruce R. Mosher formed a collection of several hundred counterstamped English and Irish coins that captured public sentiment regarding the Irish Troubles, beginning in the late-1960s and lasting until the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. A number of these come with sufficient provenance to identify the striking source. This collection can be viewed at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/imagecollections?searchLetter=I>. A representative example is Mosher L-89, a 1969 Irish 10p with a NO / POPE / HERE counterstamp. Mosher comments "Coin found in auction lot by seller's father, Mark Bowman, at his antique store in Greyabbey, Newtownards. It was in an old toolbox from Mackie's Engineering Works on the Springfield Rd. in Belfast, so must have been struck there. Mackie's had a predominately Loyalist work force, and was known to stamp large numbers of coins with Loyalist slogans. Apparently, this is one of them. Purchased from Niki Purce, Newtownards, Co. Down, N. Ireland."



Newman Portal looks forward to welcoming students back into our St. Louis scanning lab, which we anticipate will occur in the second half of 2021. In addition to incorporating contributed content, we continue to scan the Newman library remainders housed on the campus of Washington University. This collection retains a good mix of reference works, auction sale catalogs, c. 1950-2000, and periodicals of the same period. We expect to draw down this collection over time and are looking for non-profit organizations that would be interested in acquiring it at no cost to them.

The most impactful development for Newman Portal in 2021 will be the transition of our web site platform to Samvera, an open-source digital repository used by over a hundred libraries, museums, and archives. Many institutions, including Washington University, are standardizing on this platform. Adapting a common solution will allow us to incorporate site enhancements more quickly in the future and will provide access to a larger support network. New features developed by others and contributed to the open source Samvera code base will allow Newman Portal to add new capabilities at minimal cost.

As always, Newman Portal support is always a click away, via email to NNPCurator@wustl.edu. We answer research queries daily from around the world and look forward to working with all users to acquire resources for their numismatic research.

NEWMAN PORTAL AT PLAY

Newman Portal published an April Fools video on April 1, 2020, based on the premise that additional examples of the 1913 Liberty nickel were located in a wooden leg, purported to originate from the estate of Col. E. H. R. Green, in the basement of the Eric P. Newman residence. User reactions ranged from "Great gag! Reeled me in like a fish" to "I'm thinking this is an April Fool's joke. Is it?" This video, produced by Lianna Spurrier, may be viewed at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/581148>.

